

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 17, and 19 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Related Art Figures 4 & 5 and background (ARAF) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,285,301 to Shirahashi ("Shirahashi"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1 and 19 are allowable over ARAF in view of Shirahashi. Claims 1 and 19 recite a combination of elements, including, for example, a dummy data line formed in parallel to the data lines. The Examiner admits that the ARAF does not teach this feature and seeks to cure this by combining the ARAF with Shirahashi.

Shirahashi discloses the use of dummy gate lines and dummy data lines outside the gate lines and data lines in order to prevent the breakage of the outermost data and gate lines, which are the most susceptible to breakage during manufacturing. (See Shirahashi, col. 5, line 55 to col. 6, line 9). In addition, Shirahashi states that the dummy gate and data lines may be broken during manufacturing and the breakage does not affect the display quality of the liquid crystal display device. (See Shirahashi, col. 6, ll. 10-18). Further, in Shirahashi the dummy data lines are connected to a fixed voltage Vcom and the dummy data lines are set to ground. (See Shirahashi, Fig. 15 and col. 13, lines 30-36). There is no teaching in Shirahashi of a dummy data line that receives a signal in order to affect the operation of an adjacent liquid crystal display pixel. Shirahashi actually teaches away from this capability, in that the dummy data and gate lines of Shirahashi are set to ground or a fixed voltage, and further, there is the expectation that the dummy data and gate lines of Shirahashi will be broken during the manufacturing process rendering them incapable of allowing such an effect. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness regarding claims 1 and 19. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 19 under § 103 over the ARAF in view of Shirahashi.

Claims 9 and 17 are allowable over ARAF in view of Shirahashi. Claims 9 and 17 recite a combination of elements, including for example a dummy data line for compensating a capacitor value difference of an adjacent pixel electrode. The Examiner admits that the ARAF does not teach this feature and seeks to cure this by combining the ARAF with Shirahashi. Shirahashi fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention. Therefore, Shirahashi fails to teach or suggest, either singly or in combination with ARAF, at least this feature as recited in claims 9 and 17.

The description of Shirahashi and the argument relating to claims 1 and 19 above also apply in relation to claims 9 and 17. In addition, if the dummy line breaks as taught in Shirahashi it cannot function as required in claims 9 and 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness regarding claims 9 and 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 9 and 17 under § 103 over the ARAF in view of Shirahashi.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

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